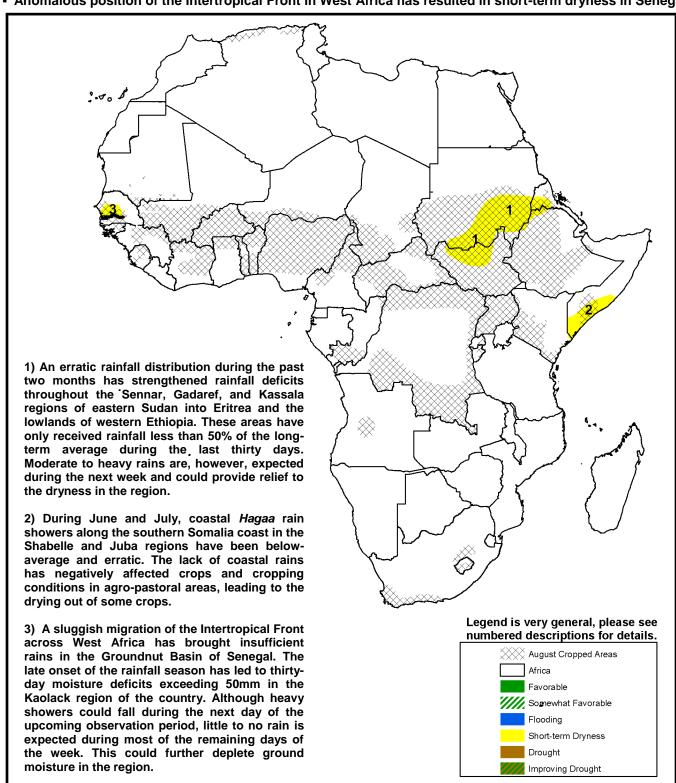






## **Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook** For USAID / FEWS-NET August 4- August 10, 2011

- An erratic distribution of rainfall during the past month has led to developing dryness in eastern Sudan.
- Anomalous position of the Intertropical Front in West Africa has resulted in short-term dryness in Senegal.



## Below-average rainfall observed in portions of West Africa.

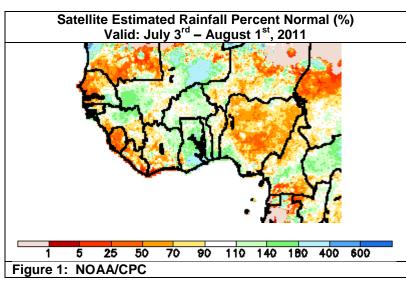
During the past week, while heavy (> 50mm) rains were observed in Guinea Bissau, Guinea, western Mali, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, and northern Nigeria, light (< 10mm) rains fell in northern Senegal. The Intertropical Front, the rain-bearing weather system across the Sahel, has been behind its climatological mean position during the past month, resulting in moisture deficits over portions of West Africa. In Senegal, the Kaolack region of the central part of the country has only received rainfall between 25 and 50% of the average during the last thirty days (Figure 1). Regions such as western Mali and western Niger have also experienced dry conditions during the past month; however an increase in rainfall during the past two weeks has helped to reduce the rainfall deficits over these areas. Meanwhile, above-average rainfall was observed in central Guinea, western Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and coastal Togo, Benin, and Nigeria during the last thirty days.

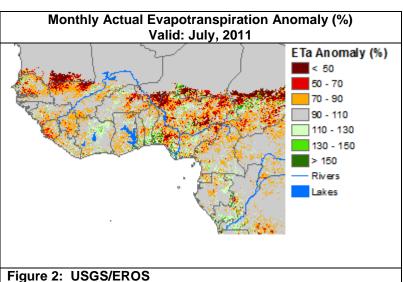
The anomalous position of the Intertropical Front has brought insufficient rainfall and, in turn, has affected vegetation conditions in the Sahel. The actual evapotranspiration has only accounted for 70-90% of the average in many local areas during the past month (**Figure 2**). In the Kaolack region of Senegal, the monthly evapotranspiration was only between 50-70% of the average in many areas. The largest negative anomalies were observed along the southern Mauritania-western Mali and southern Niger-northern Nigeria borders. In contrast, positive evapotranspiration anomalies were observed in northern Cote d'Ivoire and coastal Togo, Benin, and Nigeria during the past month. Elsewhere, average anomaly was recorded.

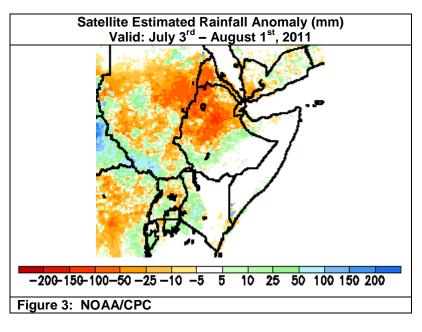
During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest heavy (> 50mm) rains in the Gulf of Guinea region and localized heavy showers in many local areas of the Sahel, including central Senegal and Gambia, western Mali, and southern Niger. In Senegal, heavy showers are only expected during the next twenty four hours of the upcoming observation period, which will be followed by a reduction or possibly cessation of rainfall during the remainders of the week. This could negatively impact cropping conditions in the region.

## Moisture deficits persist in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia.

Although seasonal rainfall was more widespread in western Ethiopia and local areas of eastern Sudan during the past week, it did little to erode the rainfall deficits in the region during the past thirty days (Figure 3). In Sudan, the erratic distribution of rainfall during the past two months has led to short-term dryness with deficits exceeding 50mm in the Sennar, Gadaref, and Kassala regions in the eastern parts of the country. In Ethiopia, the spatial extent of the June-September, the Kiremt rainfall has been consistent with climatology; however its temporal distribution has also been erratic and has resulted in moderate to severe (50-100mm) rainfall deficits across the lowlands of the Benishangul-Gumuz, Amhara, and Tigray regions during the last thirty days. Rainfall forecasts during the next week indicate seasonal rains to continue in western Ethiopia, Eastern Sudan and the eastern portions of the Republic of South Sudan are also expected to experience abundant (> 50mm) rains.







Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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